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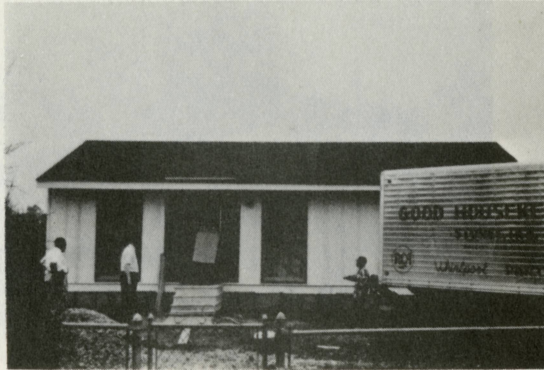
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MOVING DAY

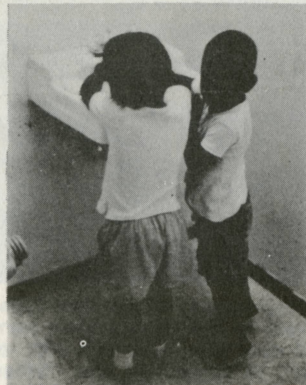
50 HOMES ALREADY
BUILT OR UNDER
CONSTRUCTION.



GOAL 100 HOMES
EACH SUGAR PLANTATION
PARISH (COUNTY).

A MAN CAN BUILD A HOUSE -
ONLY A WOMAN CAN MAKE A HOME

WASH UP TIME



OFFICE FRANK LAPEYROLERIE



CENTER FOR JOB TRAINING, SELF HELP HOUSING,
VOTER REGISTRATION and UNION ACTIVITY.



Agricultural and Allied Workers Union No. 300

AFL-CIO

Box 43

Reserve, La. 70084



1967

Plantation Workers Housing

SELF HELP



One Way to Build

This program of joint self-help under FHA auspices presents excellent possibilities for producing housing in many areas at prices nearly any family can pay. That is \$31 a month on the loan; a little more for insurance. There is some government subsidy involved in the pay for the supervisor and the four per cent interest rate.

A noteworthy aspect of the deal was that the owner obtained a \$9000 house with a loan of \$5600 from the Farmers' Home Administration and \$3400 in labor from himself and his neighbors, who were organized into the Mutual Self-Help Housing Farm Workers Association. The FHA paid for a work supervisor.

Editorial

The mutual assistance housing developments should thrive. The work-week (regular job) now is about 40 hours (maybe less) and almost anyone has some time to contribute to erecting his own house when tools and supervision are available. The idea is not new. Many can remember in years past that when a family needed a house and could supply the material, friends got together and helped in the building. This kind of procedure runs into all kinds of rules and obstacles in the big cities. But the Edgard project shows that cooperation and self-help can still get a job done in non-urban areas when there is a real need for houses.

TIMES-PICAYUNE, NEW ORLEANS, LA.

HOUSES BY KINGSBURY, INC.

PHOTO'S BY BETSEY BERLESON

AUGUST 7, 1967

Plantation Workers Achieve Their Own Decent Housing



Sugar plantation workers spend their week-ends building houses for one another as part of the "Union Homes Project" initiated by Amalgamated Local 300 in Edgard, Louisiana. By working on their own co-operative housing project each plantation worker earns an equity toward his own home.



Rev. Louis J. Twomey, S.J., director, Department of Human Relations, Loyola University in New Orleans, was instrumental in helping Local 300 get the "Union Homes Project" started. He is a tireless worker in helping people help themselves and is held in high esteem by all the area workers.

A sugar plantation worker will pay approximately \$5,600 for a house including the lot. The house will be financed through a government home loan plus the "work equity" each worker puts into the project. Each house has three bedrooms, bath, kitchen, utility room, and combination living and dining room.



■ Thanks to the initiative of Frank Lapeyrolerie, secretary-treasurer of Amalgamated Local 300, and International Representative H. L. Mitchell the "Union Homes Project" in Edgard, Louisiana is now a reality. That means that scores of sugar plantation workers and their families will soon live in decent houses.

Home ownership will be a major accomplishment for the workers. Their wages on the sugar plantations range from \$1.10 to \$1.25 an hour. They presently live in

tumble-down former slave quarter houses built on several plantations in the area including the well known 100 year old San Francisco Plantation.

The idea to establish the "Union Homes Project" came to Lapeyrolerie, Mitchell, and Reverend Louis J. Twomey, S.J., director of the Human Relations Institute at Loyola University in New Orleans; upon attending a White House Conference on Human Problems and Housing They raised the issue of how to get

houses built to replace rural slums. They were informed about a Federal agency where home loan funds would be available.

Father Twomey arranged a meeting with the Farmers Home Administration state and local officials. The financial phase of the housing project was underway

Lapeyrolerie, a trade unionist active in community affairs, obtained the assistance of Paul Richard, a housing construction man. They worked together to assist families with filling out com-



plicated government forms, obtained options on housing sites for them and worked out the plans and cost estimates.

The final phase of the housing project is unique. Through his friendly contact with the plantation workers during his organizing campaign, Lapeyrolerie was able to organize the workers into working groups to build the houses. Self-help housing associations of 10 families each were established.

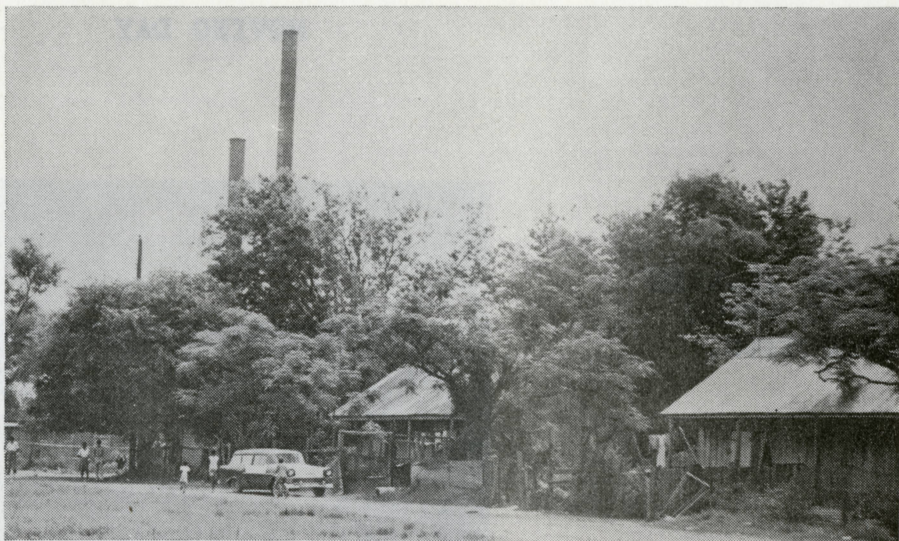
Every week the men pitch in to help build one of the homes on a nine-hour a day basis. The houses were built at a rate of two each week. "This is in the great tradition of American frontier days when the pioneer families gathered to build log cabins for themselves as new settlers in the wilderness," said Mitchell.

As the men worked together to build the houses each man receives a credit of not less than \$1.40 an hour which becomes a part of his equity toward his new home. It is estimated that once the houses are completed each family will have an equity of \$1,000 or more.

Each house will cost the worker about \$6,500, including the land on which it is built. The homes are financed by 100 per cent government housing loans made available by the Farmers Home Administration.

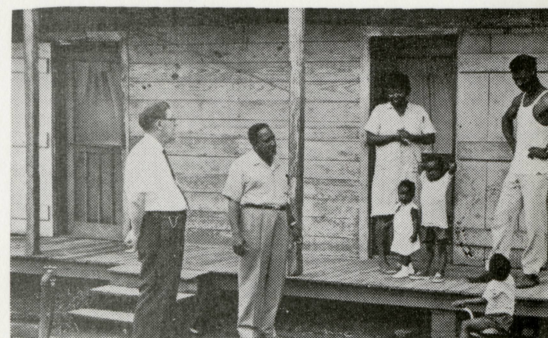
As the houses are being built, Local 300 is flooded with applications of plantation workers to work in the project. Their enthusiasm now reaches out to organize a credit union and consumer co-operative. They all want a union contract providing higher wages and improved working conditions. Over 500 workers have already joined the Amalgamated.

JUNE, 1967



The "big house" of the San Francisco Plantation, built about 1840, affords a sharp contrast to the tumble-down homes (top photo) of the sugar plantation workers located near the sugar mill with its smokestacks shown in the background. The "big house" is known as the "Steamboat Gothic House" because it resembles the great river boats which travelled the Mississippi River prior to 1870. The novel by Frances Parkinson Keyes about the plantation is "Steamboat Gothic."

Mr and Mrs. Robert Moore with their children eagerly look forward to the day they will move into their own home. A tractor driver employed on the San Francisco Sugar Plantation, Moore is one of many workers participating in the self-help housing co-operative called "Union Houses Project." Chatting with the Moore family are, left to right, Amalgamated International Union Representative H. L. Mitchell and Local 300 Secretary-Treasurer Frank Lapeyrolerie.



ANGELO MORRIS, right, takes a smoke break and to talk to the men who helped to make "Union Homes Project" possible. Left to right are Paul Richard, a local builder who helped to develop the "project" and now supervises the building of the houses, and Frank Lapeyrolerie, secretary-treasurer of Local 300 who organized the plantation workers into the co-operative self-help housing project.

